

# Push-me-pull-you

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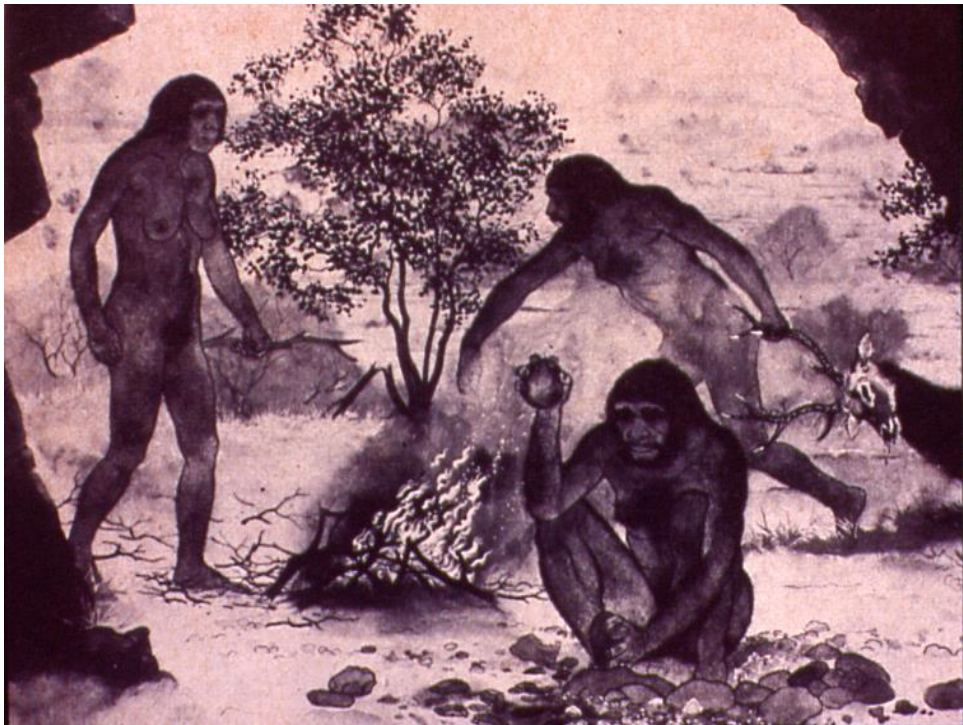


## Forest Devolution in Scotland

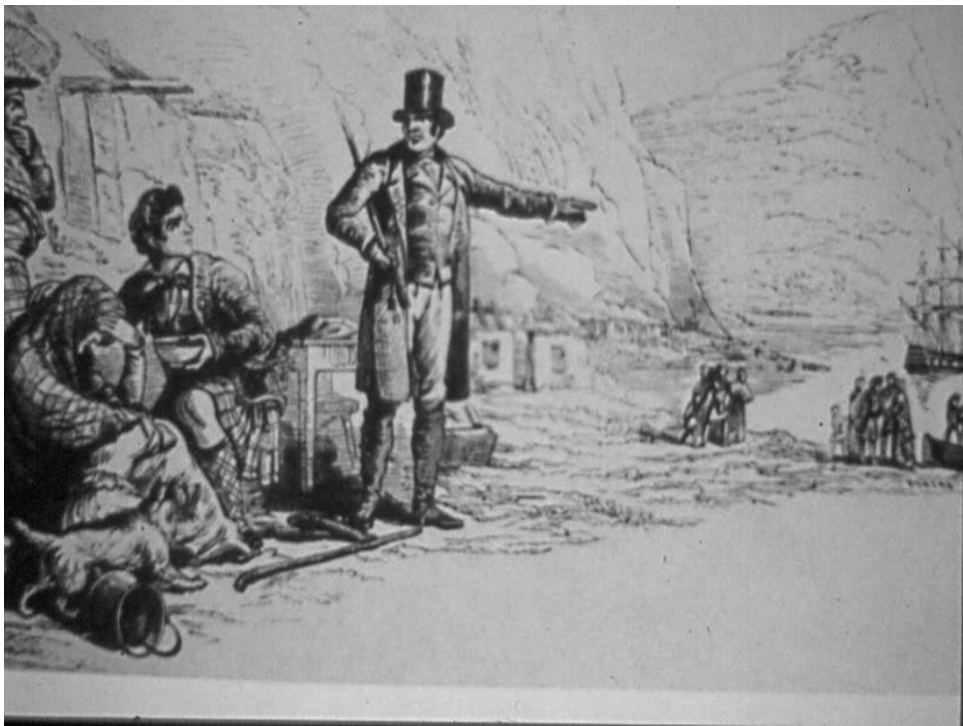
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## **By early 20th century**

- ⌘ Less than 5% tree cover
- ⌘ Only 1.4% ancient semi-natural woodland
- ⌘ 60% of the land owned by 1250 people



## By late 20th century

- ⌘ 16% tree cover
- ⌘ 2.5% semi-natural woodland
- ⌘ 60% of land still owned by 1250 people

...then things began to change...

## Push down of power

1991: Crofter Forestry Act

1994: Forests and People in Rural Areas

1997: Community Land Unit

1999: Devolution

2000: Forests and People Panel

2003: Land Reform Act



## Push-me-pull-you

- 1985: Scottish Crofters Union
  - 1987: Highlands & Islands Forum
  - 1989: Treslaig Crofters
  - 1991: Crofter Forestry Act
  - 1992: Assynt Crofters Trust
  - 1994: Forests and People in Rural Areas
  - 1996: Culag, Abriachan & Cairnhead
  - 1997: Community Land Unit
  - 1998: Laggan
  - 1999: Devolution
  - 2000: Forests and People Panel
  - 2002: Community Woodlands Association
  - 2003: Land Reform Act
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## How local revolutions influence push down of power



- By creating breakthroughs and bringing about something that was perceived to be impossible  
thereby firing **the collective imagination**
  - By being revolutionary and creatively challenging the status quo  
thereby releasing **energy**
  - By solving big problems (such as land inequity, bad land management, rural depopulation)  
thereby spreading **optimism**
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## How local revolutions influence push down of power

- By achieving unexpected outcomes, e.g. education, social housing, better environmental management thereby gaining **credibility**
  - By being documented and used as evidence and proof of concept to those in power thereby developing **confidence**
  - By creating an impact on public opinion by working with newspapers, TV and radio thereby generating **political will**
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## Agencies should respond

- ⌘ by listening to local people and allowing them to shape the process of decentralisation
  - ⌘ by addressing institutional inertia and changing the corporate culture
  - ⌘ by building local community capacity for taking power and supporting grassroots networks
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## Lessons from Scotland

- ⌘ Revolutionary 'treeroots' activity that pulls power down to the local level can shape the decentralisation process.
- ⌘ Communities should not be treated as passive recipients of devolved power pushed down from the centre.
- ⌘ Power shifts are evolutionary, involving push-me-pull-you interactions.



## Decentralisation



- ⌘ From UK government to Scottish Executive.
  - ⌘ By making forest governance more participatory.
  - ⌘ Through a process of land reform.
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